

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LONDON 01472 01 OF 02 262004Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGRE-00 ACDA-12 AID-05 CEA-01
CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DLOS-09 DODE-00
DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-11 FMC-01 TRSE-00
H-01 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SIL-01 LAB-04 /142 W
-----034784 262033Z /62

P R 261933Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2488
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 01472

USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, EEC, UK
SUBJECT: LATE READING ON UK FISHERIES POLICY

1. THE UK POSITION IN THE EC FISHERIES COMMISSION TO
DATE -- A POSITION "RESERVED" BY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE,
FISHERIES AND FOOD AT THE LAST MEETING OF COMMON MARKET
FISHERIES MINISTERS JANUARY 16-18 -- DEMANDS THREE ESSEN-
TIAL POINTS IN ANY COMMON FISHERIES POLICY:
(1) A PREFERENTIAL POSITION FOR BRITAIN'S FISHERMEN WITH-
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LONDON 01472 01 OF 02 262004Z

IN 50 MILES FROM THE COAST;
(2) PROPERLY ENFORCED CONSERVATION MEASURES;
(3) ACCEPTABLE QUOTAS.
REGARDING CONSERVATION, THE UK PERCEIVES CONTINENTAL
FISHERMEN AS HAVING EXERCISED BAD FAITH IN THE PAST AND
INSISTS ON AN ENFORCEABLE REGIME INCLUDING LICENSING OF
INDIVIDUAL BOATS, FAILING WHICH THE UK WILL TAKE "UNI-

LATERAL MEASURES." OTHER EC COUNTRIES (EXCEPT IRELAND) DEEM LICENSING TO BE IMPRACTICAL AND WOULD RELY ON DOCK-SIDE TALLIES.

2. WHEN BRITAIN ENTERED THE COMMON MARKET IN 1973, ITS FISHERY INDUSTRY WAS ASSURED THAT HMG WOULD "WORK FROM WITHIN" TO CHANGE THE EC FISHERIES RULES, WHICH HAD BEEN HASTILY, AND ONE-SIDEDLY, DRAWN UP BY THE THEN EC COUNCIL. NEITHER BRITAIN NOR THE EC FORESAW THE ESTABLISHMENT OF 200-MILE EXCLUSIVE FISHERIES ZONES -- A FACTOR WHICH THE UK CAN NOW POINT TO AS GIVING RISE TO "UNJUST ENRICHMENT" OF ITS EC PARTNERS, NOT TO MENTION BEING THE "FORCE MAJEURE" JUSTIFYING RESCISSION OF THE FISHERIES "CONTRACT" OF THE TREATY OF ACCESSION. THE EC, ON THE OTHER HAND, REPLIES THAT THE FISHERIES REGIME REMAINS UNCHANGED SINCE 1973, THAT THE UK ACCEPTED IT AS PART OF THE BARGAIN, AND THAT IT IS BOUND BY IT. HENCE, THE DEADLOCK.

3. YET LEGALISTIC ARGUMENTS SERVE ONLY TO JUSTIFY POSITIONS TAKEN FOR BASICALLY POLITICAL REASONS (ECONOMICALLY, FISHERIES ARE NOT ALL THAT IMPORTANT, ACCOUNTING FOR ONLY 0.1 PERCENT OF BRITAIN'S LABOR FORCE AND 0.2 PERCENT OF GDP). OUTSIDERS HAVE LONG BUT IN VAIN PUZZLED OVER FISHERIES' POLITICAL IMPORTANCE, FEW MARGINAL PARLIAMENTARY SEATS BEING LOCATED IN FISHERIES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 LONDON 01472 01 OF 02 262004Z

DISTRICTS. HOWEVER, THERE IS NO DOMESTIC POLITICAL MILEAGE IN SACRIFICING TO EUROPEAN COMMON POLICY (A) WHAT IS SEEN TO BE BRITISH ECONOMIC INTEREST AND (B) THE VOTES OF FISHERMEN AND THOSE WHO SENTIMENTALLY SHARE THEIR INTERESTS.

4. PREVIOUS EC COUNCIL MEETINGS, THE MOST RECENT HELD ON JANUARY 16TH -- RESULTED IN PROPOSALS ON QUOTAS WHEN THE UK ACCEPTED AS A "BASIS FOR DISCUSSION" SUBJECT TO PROGRESS ON THE ISSUE OF PREFERENTIAL ACCESS. THE UK HAS INSISTED ON A SHARE IN THE TOTAL EC CATCH COMMENSURATE WITH ITS 60 PERCENT SHARE OF THE TOTAL EC FISHERIES "POND."THE EC'S QUOTA PROPOSALS AND ITS ACCEPTANCE OF THE PRINCIPLE OF STRICT CONSERVATION MEASURES, LED TO NEW OPTIMISM THAT A COMMON POLICY MIGHT BE WORKED OUT BY THE END OF JANUARY.

5. THE EMBASSY'S FCO AND MAFF CONTACTS ARE DECLINING TO SPECULATE AS TO LIKELY OUTCOME OF EC DISPUTE, BUT THEY ARE WORKING FURIOUSLY TO PREPARE FOR THE NEXT ROUND OF MINISTERIAL TALKS WHERE IT IS HOPED A COMPROMISE CAN BE ACHIEVED. MEANWHILE, THE TALK OF DEADLOCK AND IMPASSE

APPEARS TO BE PART OF NEGOTIATING STRATEGY UNDER PRESSURE FROM AN ARTICULATE AND DESPERATE (IF NUMERICALLY INSIGNIFICANT) CONSTITUENCY WHICH IS WATCHING CLOSELY. THIS HAS BEEN COMPOUNDED BY THE THREAT BY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD JOHN SILKIN TO BOYCOTT INFORMAL MINISTERIAL MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 27TH IN BERLIN UNLESS WEST GERMANY, THE NETHERLANDS AND BELGIUM TAKE ACTION ON ITS REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A 7-1/2 PERCENT "GREEN POUND" DEVALUATION. MAFF SOURCES SAY THAT THE THREAT IS REAL, AND AS OF TODAY DOUBT THAT SILKIN WILL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LONDON 01472 02 OF 02 261951Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGRE-00 ACDA-12 AID-05 CEA-01
CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DLOS-09 DODE-00
DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-11 FMC-01 TRSE-00
H-01 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SIL-01 LAB-04 /142 W
-----034301 262031Z /62

P R 261933Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2489
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 01472

ATTEND.

6. ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE TALKS GO AHEAD, A POSSIBLE SOLUTION INVOLVES THE DRAFTING OF "FISHING PLANS" FOR THE 50-MILE COASTAL ZONE, BUT THIS IS A CONCEPT YET TO

BE DEFINED. WITH THE THREAT THAT BRITAIN WILL CITE A NOVEMBER, 1976 AGREEMENT OF EC MINISTERS MEETING AT THE HAGUE AS JUSTIFICATION FOR UNILATERAL CONSERVATION MEASURES IF NEGOTIATIONS FAIL, A QUOTA/LICENSING SCHEME KEYED TO DEMARCATED FISHING ZONES IS A LIKELY COMPROMISE OUTCOME. (IRELAND USED THE HAGUE AGREEMENT TO JUSTIFY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LONDON 01472 02 OF 02 261951Z

ITS BAN ON FISHING VESSELS OVER 110 FEET IN LENGTH WITHIN 50 MILES, BUT SUSPENDED ENFORCEMENT OF THE RULE IN THE ENSUING BROUHAHA.)

7. REGARDLESS OF THE OUTCOME OF THE EC FISHERIES ISSUE, THE DECLINE OF THE BRITISH DISTANT WATER FISHERIES -- AND THE DEMISE OF HULL AS A FISHING PORT -- WILL NOT LIKELY BE REVERSED. ON THE OTHER HAND, NEAR-WATER AND IN-SHORE FISHING, ESPECIALLY FOR MACKEREL (FOR EXPORT TO NIGERIA) IS AN ENCOURAGING GROWTH INDUSTRY. NEWER,

FULLY-EQUIPPED TRAWLERS -- BOTH WET-FISH AND FREEZERS -- ARE EXPECTED TO ADAPT TO THE GEOGRAPHY OF WHATEVER SHARE OF EC FISHERIES THE UK IS ABLE TO GET. BUT THE MODERN VESSELS CAN USE SMALLER, CHEAPER PORTS, AND HAVE NO NEED TO TRAVEL 20 MILES UP THE HUMBER RIVER TO DOCK AT HULL.

BREWSTER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FISHERIES, POLICIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LONDON01472
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780039-0585
Format: TEL
From: LONDON USEEC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780120/aaaaaqmt.tel
Line Count: 200
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9b4209e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3710798
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LATE READING ON UK FISHERIES POLICY
TAGS: EFIS, UK, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9b4209e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014